

## **Prevalence of Substance Use Disorders and Problems**

- According to a 1997 Wisconsin household survey, 9.8 percent of adults and 8.3 percent of adolescents are in need of treatment for a substance use disorder.
- Substance use disorders affect over 350,000 adults and 40,000 adolescents in Wisconsin.
- The prevalence of substance use disorders is three times higher in men than it is in women.
- There are 23,000 arrests for illegal drug sales or possession in Wisconsin each year.
- There are 37,000 arrests, 8,000 crashes, and 6,800 injuries related to drinking and driving each year in Wisconsin.
- There are 48,000 violations of liquor laws in Wisconsin each year.
- Substance abuse is the fourth leading cause of death and the fourth leading cause of hospitalization in Wisconsin.
- Wisconsin ranks first in the nation in the rate of adults who drink alcohol.
- Wisconsin ranks first in the nation in the rate of adults who consume five or more drinks on an occasion.

## **Cost of Substance Abuse\***

The economic impact of substance abuse nationally is estimated to be \$246 billion each year. The estimate for Wisconsin is \$4.6 billion per year. The breakdown of Wisconsin costs is as follows:

### **Health Care**

Treatment/Prevention	\$ 187,392,670
Medical Care	\$ 352,838,620

### **Losses in Productivity**

Premature Death	\$ 862,498,580
Diminished Productivity	\$2,458,032,640
Due to Crime	\$ 456,258,780

<b>Welfare/Public Assistance</b>	\$ 19,165,800
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<b>Traffic Crashes</b>	\$ 255,901,010
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<b>Fires</b>	\$ 29,876,100
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*\*Source: The Economic Cost of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the United States: 1992, Lewin Group, Washington, D.C.*

Information provided by the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, Division of Supportive Living, Department of Health & Family Services. (608) 266-2717. Web: [www.dhfs.state.wi.us/substabuse](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/substabuse)